

FCEMF Meeting Minutes
Rawhide Boys Ranch
September 6, 2016

Welcome by Tony Beach

Introductions with answering the questions: Who are you, what have you been called to do in the Fox Valley, and what is the one thing you can handle now that you couldn't without Christ.

In Attendance: Tony Beach, Paul Cameron, Landon Churchill, Larry Creamer, Becky Deuel, Steve Dorosz (Rawhide), Alvin Dupree, Paul Franzmeier, Kim Goller, Vaughn Groen, Maralee Groen, Wade Hetrick, John Kieffer, Steve Nickel, Eric Omdal, Jeremy Rush, and John Sitcler

Devotion – Vaughn Groen

Psalm 112:6-8

Trust is the opposite of trust is fear

Shared the testimony of Shalom House in the last year.

Would they still continue to exist? If so, in what form?

Lack of trust is from something we fear. God put them on a path of trusting Him, not knowing the results. He found this Scripture passage recently and it reminded him of their journey. It was encouraging to read this and reflect on how good God is and where their trust is to be placed.

They were used to do things a certain way, there is fear that comes with having to do things differently. Closeness develops from trusting Him. When there is change, we have to trust that the new is going to work out to benefit us, that it will be positive. The format changed somewhat where they host the parents, serve some meals, provide sleeping quarters for up to ten people (parental units only). They have done three of these weekends so far. It's been good. Now they can minister to some who don't necessarily know Jesus, which is different than serving pastors. There is brokenness and an opportunity to be a light in the darkness. It is something good in addition to what they are accustomed to doing. That change, that trusting, is showing good fruit and righteousness, showing where God is at work. It has been encouraging for him and Maralee to be a part of this. Their fear has greatly diminished and their trust has increased. Their fears have been set aside.

Kelly Wisnefske, of Rawhide shared what services Rawhide provides for the community. Rawhide started ten years ago taking calls from Social Services. Now they have five clinics and serve adolescent males, females, young couples and young children. They appreciate taking referrals from churches and have a special rate for those clients because the churches will help them transition back into life. Too many others don't have support when they leave. All of their therapists are Christians but not allowed to impose their beliefs on the clients because they are licensed by the state.

Vaughn Groen: God is talked about and they have those extended conversations at Shalom House. They can engage unapologetically. So far, none have been resistant.

If they don't have the hope of Jesus being the answer, Rawhide is only a temporary fix. They need that eternal hope to go forth to have true healing and improve their parenting skills.

Business – Tony Beach

Asked Landon to share about his Sabbatical and the latest on the Love Your Neighbor initiative.

Landon Churchill:

Having three months off was cool. There were several new people at church when he came back. He had encouraged them in his messages before he left to get to know their neighbors and love on them. It is happening at Freedom Fellowship – it's not about the Back to Church Sunday on September 18th. People are loving their neighbors.

It's not difficult to discuss neighborlessness in the abstract, but what is it going to cost us to do what God is calling us to do – to love our neighbor? Cool to see the people at Freedom Fellowship right now – seeing the Fellowship stepping out with the commission to go, to be loving, to bring people to church. They have been having multiple visitors every week from doing what God has asked us to do. As leaders, we are to equip our people to do this. It boils down to loving our neighbor – going out and seeing the need. We are called to lead our people in this. This is what he has been praying for us to do in this group. There are so many resources out there to equip God's people with practical things. Let them know that God has gifted us to reach the people in our life. Surveys show that 82% of people will come to church if they are invited. He has been inviting people and it is amazing how many are agreeing to come. Engage people in conversation and love on them. You never know who will respond to the invitation. If we aren't risking something, we are probably going backwards. We are hanging on to security and safety and working to be comfortable. That is where trust and hope in the living God comes from. We take risks when we invite people to Church. But we have to take the risk.

Paul Cameron: The Family radio station has always encouraged people to plug into a local church, not telling them which church. They will be talking about Back to Church Sunday, but won't mention participating churches by name because there are so many. They will try to link to churches if people want more information. Don't just bring people to Church – bring them to Jesus. We want to get some stories about people responding to our invitation, to us loving on them and will start spots in a few days for Back to Church Sunday.

Treasurer's Report – Paul Franzmeier

There is currently \$725.21 in the account

We helped with Party in the Park and that seemed to go well.

Let him know if we have any thoughts about how to use this money.

Steve Nickel: Rick Kindschi is taking the Convoy of Hope stuff that has been stored at Fox Valley Christian Fellowship. It fits the Mission of Hope event needs.

Tony Beach: City Wide Prayer is being held from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at Pathways on the 3rd Monday evening of each month

Paul Franzmeier: Check out <http://we-pray.org/> to register for:
Men's Mini-Prayer Summit on September 17th at Family First Ministries
Women's Mini-Prayer Summit on October 1st at Calvary
Pastor's Prayer Summit at Green Lake Conference Center, Oct 31-Nov 3rd

Landon Churchill: Fox Valley Jail Ministries Walk
September 17th from 9:00 to 12:00 at Ploughman Park. Go to <http://fvjm.org/FVJM/Welcome.html> for information and to register.

Jeremy Rush: Over the Edge – rappelling fund raiser for His House Ministries
September 17, 2016. Rappelling right down into the middle of the Oshkosh Farmer's Market. Still have spots available for people who want to repel. Check out: <http://www.uw4god.org/OvertheEdgeOshkosh>
All proceeds go to His House – hoping to raise funds to benefit their staff.
Each staff person currently has to raise all of the funds for their income and ministry expenses.

Paul Cameron:
They currently have a chaplain as part of their team on the board. Are there pastors available to which they could refer people? He doesn't know our giftings or talents. There are people who come to them and they need someone to whom to pass these things on. Not a lot of demand, but want to be prepared. As a station they can't respond to all of the requests.
Recommended that <http://meettheneed.org> be used to match needs with resources.

Vaughn Groen:
Business cards and brochures from Rawhide are available for us
Pray for the counselors here that they be able to share Jesus, even though they are taking state funds. Pray that they can stand up for Jesus even in this environment. Let Jesus be the basis of the presentations, that they stand firm and not be afraid. How can you talk about hope if you can't mention Jesus?

Closing Prayer – Vaughn Groen